

EUROPEAN UNION
BORDER ASSISTANCE MISSION
TO MOLDOVA AND UKRAINE



ANNUAL REPORT



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1 DECEMBER 2019 - 30 NOVEMBER 2020

EUBAM AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY



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It gives me a special honour to introduce the 2020 Annual Report, covering EUBAM and its Partner Services' joint activities and main achievements over the last 12 months, from December 2019 till November 2020. This year has not been just another year for the Mission enjoying the privilege to serve in the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, but the year which completely differs from all the previous ones.

This period started smoothly, in a very good spirit, considering that the Mission's activities were positively assessed following a mid-term external evaluation and recommendation to continue the EUBAM's assistance beyond 30 November 2020. The coronavirus pandemic outbreak affecting the whole world put the Mission in front of unprecedented challenges, impacting the process of joint work and the border management implementation. Since the mid-March, we have had to take precautionary measures and switch to the on-line communication.

Thus, despite, or perhaps more precisely - because of, the difficult times we were going through, I feel delighted to report that the year was productive and together with our Partner Services we moved forward with the implementation of most of the activities. Moreover, within this outstanding period, EUBAM marked its fifteenth anniversary, fifteen years of sustainable support to the Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs agencies, that recognised the EU Mission as a reliable partner in the region.

Coming back to the last 12 months, the Mission continued its contribution to launching a dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol aimed at resumption of unhindered movement of goods across the Transnistrian region for facilitating the international trade. Furthermore, the Mission persevered to remain on guard against health and economic hazards. Additionally, since ruling of the state of emergency in the Republic of Moldova, EUBAM has constantly monitored and provided unbiased observations to the EU Delegation and the OSCE Mission on the implementation of measures adopted by Chisinau and Tiraspol to soften the pandemic impact on trade.

With a specific regard to the Integrated Border Management, EUBAM jointly with its Partner Services advanced the infrastructural projects together with respective procedures towards the implementation of full-fledged joint control at Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc and Giurgiulesti-Reni jointly operated border crossing points. In the Republic of Moldova, the Mission assisted the border and customs agencies in developing a Cooperation Plan on planning and carrying out joint operations of mobile units. After the document was signed, the Mission started a similar initiative in Ukraine, and developed a proposal on launching a pilot project on interagency mobile units in the Odesa region. Besides, we invested our expertise into reviewing

the operations of the Common Contact Point 'Palanca' and launched the Joint Assistance Exercise 'DEMETRA II', a comprehensive verification practice on customs controls performed by the partner services at selected BCPs.

The combating cross-border crime continued taking the high position on the Mission's agenda. We kept maintaining our efforts in addressing the threats related to smuggling tobacco products, weapons and radioactive materials trafficking. Hence, together with the national law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, and in cooperation with Europol, Frontex and OSCE, EUBAM launched a new joint initiative for counteracting illicit firearms trafficking by setting up the Arms Working Group to strengthen the Partner Services' efforts in preventing, detecting, and investigating those specific crimes. Under this initiative EUBAM successfully implemented a series of tangible actions on response to the illicit trafficking in radioactive materials, enhancing cooperation in running controlled deliveries of illicit firearms and countering illicit firearms trafficking.

In closing, I pay tribute to our Moldovan and Ukrainian strategic Partners for their devoted work, commitment and all the sacrifices implied by their job especially during these challenging times. Likewise, in the light of the latest extension of the EUBAM's mandate until November 2023, I would like to thank our Partners for the trust granted to the Mission. EUBAM will continue to engage with the law enforcement authorities from the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine with a view to supporting our host countries in strengthening border security, as these challenging times proved us, more than ever, that we still can be successful if we stay determined and motivated to cooperate.

Slawomir Pichor

Head of Mission

THE YEAR IN ACHIEVEMENTS

December 2019 - November 2020

15
YEARS
FOR BORDER
MANAGEMENT
2005 - 2020

OBJECTIVE 1

CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

- The impact of the state of emergency in the Republic of Moldova on Transnistrian imports, especially medicine, was constantly monitored, supporting the softening of the pandemic influence on trade.
- Moldovan authorities were alerted about cigarettes imports to the Transnistrian region exceeding the local consumption and their non-compliance with the Moldovan health regulations, thus contributing to the tobacco health standards in the region.
- Expertise was provided to the sectorial working groups supporting the extension of full-fledged resumption of rail freight across the Transnistrian region and the inclusion of trailers under the 2018 Protocol Decision.

OBJECTIVE 2

INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT

- A Cooperation Plan on joint mobile activities between border and customs agencies was developed in the Republic of Moldova and a similar pilot project was initiated in the Odesa region, in Ukraine.
- A new EU-funded project 'EU 4 Border Security' aimed at implementing video control and automated number plate recognition systems at border crossing points at the Moldova-Ukraine border was launched and contributed to.
- A comprehensive verification exercise on customs controls of cargo traffic, 'DEMETRA II' was conducted in cooperation with the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs services, aiming at strengthening compliance and trade facilitation.

OBJECTIVE 3

CROSS-BORDER CRIME

- An Arms Working Group was launched together with the national LEAs, and supported by Europol, Frontex and OSCE, for strengthening the efforts in countering the firearms trafficking in the region.
- A three-day practical exercise for mastering operational response to trafficking of radioactive materials across the border was implemented in cooperation with the Moldovan and Ukrainian national nuclear and radiological agencies.
- Joint Operation 'ORION II', aimed at counteracting illicit firearms trafficking, was conducted in cooperation with Frontex and Europol, resulting into a significant number of detentions of small arms, light weapons, ammunition and explosives.

European Parliament resolution of 20 October 2020 on the implementation of the EU Association Agreement with the Republic of Moldova recognizes the importance of the European Union's Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) in harmonising border management and customs regime to that of the Union, also with regard to the solution of the Transnistrian issue.

FOREWORDS FROM PARTNER SERVICES

General Border Police
Inspectorate of the
Republic of Moldova

Petru Corduneanu

Deputy Head of the General Border Police
Inspectorate of the Republic of Moldova



Over the years, the Border Police of the Republic of Moldova (MDBP) has enjoyed rewarding cooperation with EUBAM through its support and assistance since its very inception in strengthening state border security of the Republic of Moldova.

EUBAM remains a reliable partner of MDBP on the way towards expanding its institutional capacities. In this context, MDBP welcomed the statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration on enforcement of Agreement through the exchange of diplomatic notes between the Government of the Republic of Moldova, the European Commission and the Government of Ukraine on extension of the mandate of the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (Chisinau, 3 September 2020) until 30 November 2023.

Although the 2020 activities were affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, MDBP continued its implementation of the Integrated Border Management Concept. In May 2020, MDBP submitted its proposals to the draft Action Plan for implementation of the National Strategy on Integrated Border Management for 2021-2023. In this regard, the EUBAM's assistance in drafting relevant provisions was highly appreciated.

To ensure the uptake of the Strategy, on 19 February 2020, under the aegis of EUBAM, a Plan of Cooperation was signed between the General Border Police Inspectorate and Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova on planning and implementing joint operations of Mobile Units aiming to advance their operational performance.

In 2020, to underpin the international legal framework for implementation of joint control at the Moldova-Ukraine border, a draft of international legal document was agreed with regard to application of Article 9 of the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Moldova and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine

on joint control of persons, vehicles, goods and items at Joint Border Crossing Points across the Moldova-Ukraine border as of 6 October 2017. Decree of the Government of the Republic of Moldova No.697 as of 23 September 2020 initiated negotiations with the Ukrainian side.

Moreover, I would like to express special gratitude to EUBAM for its assistance in counteracting cross-border crimes. MDBP was actively involved in the successful international Joint Operation 'ORION II' and Joint Assistance Exercise on controlled delivery of illicit firearms. Although the year 2020 posed certain challenges for convening in person, I am happy to acknowledge EUBAM's efficient efforts in organizing online meetings of the Task Force Tobacco and a meeting on Evaluation of procedures at Palanca Common Contact Point.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all our partners for the joint fruitful cooperation during the challenging year of 2020 and express confidence in further development of successful collaboration and partnership.

I count on EUBAM's further cooperation, technical and advisory assistance. I pledge our commitment to continue cooperation with the Mission, with our partners, pursuing to jointly ensure a high level of border security.



State Border Guard
Service of Ukraine

Serhiy Deyineko

Head of the State Border Guard Service
of Ukraine



We highly appreciate the EUBAM's comprehensive support in strengthening cooperation at the Ukraine-Moldova border, developing the Ukrainian border agency, and its strategic partnership in all our endeavours over the years.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to outline the Service' major progress and prospects.

The State Border Guard Service of Ukraine (UASBGS) continues to evolve within the sweeping reform of the security and defense sector of Ukraine and ensures both safety and security of the border. Following the Ukraine's commitment for the Euro Atlantic integration and introduction of the best European border management practices, the Government has adopted the Integrated Border Management Strategy (IBM) until 2025 and its Action Plan for the first three years. At the legislative level, a procedure was settled to transfer land plots into the UASBGS' permanent ownership for infrastructural development and maintenance of the border. The state border control authorities were empowered to carry out investigation activities. Moreover, procedures for selection, recruitment and service of Ukrainian citizens within the UASBGS military reserve were defined.

To amplify the border security, joint patrolling was extended along the common borders with the EU and the Republic of Moldova. The border control procedures were enhanced, and joint control of persons, goods and vehicles was launched at ten border crossing points along the Ukraine-Moldova and Ukraine-Poland segments of the state border. Contact points are operating with a focus on cross-border crime prevention.

Effective cooperation was established with border guard and law enforcement agencies of the neighbouring countries, the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (Frontex), the European Commission Support Group for Ukraine, the European Union Advisory Mission for Civilian Security Sector Reform (EUAM) and the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM).

UASBGS, together with the State Customs Service of Ukraine, EUBAM, as well as border and customs agencies of the Republic of Moldova are engaged in drafting a quarterly Common Border Security Assessment Report for the Ukraine-Moldova border. The report highlights the major border security threats facilitating decision-making and planning of operational activities.

Furthermore, EUBAM is actively involved in the Virtual Contact Analysis Centre on information exchange between the IBM stakeholders.

We continue to invest efforts into the development of fundamentally new 'smart' engineering border surveillance system, including at the Ukraine-Moldova state border.

Anti-corruption and integrity activities for personnel are regularly followed up.

Work is constantly carried out to ensure proper conditions of service and a decent social package for border guards; the gender equality service has been launched. Logistics and institutional healthcare systems are evolving.

I strongly believe that approval of the Plan for implementation of agreements reached during the visit of the President of the Republic of Moldova to Ukraine (12 January, 2021) is a positive element for the development of bilateral cooperation.

Such Activity Plan will clearly lead to a new round of development and strengthening of good-neighbouring relations between Ukraine and Moldova.

In this vein, I would like to reaffirm that EUBAM remains a reliable strategic partner of the Ukrainian border agency and entirely contributes to its headway.



Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova

Sergiu Burduja

Director of the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova



The previous year brought crucial changes caused by the pandemic challenging situation, and affected as well the customs and border management. The restriction of passenger and traffic flows across the border has been one of the essential measures to contain the spread of coronavirus disease. Yet, we continued our cooperation with EUBAM and Ukrainian colleagues in the main areas of joint activities the online format, a new mode for all of us.

Unfortunately, we didn't manage to achieve our targeted results in rolling out the joint control. Therefore, the expansion of joint control at other border crossing points (BCPs) is our persistent priority, including the Transnistrian segment of the border, in accordance with the Road Map for 2019-2022.

However, within the EU Project on infrastructure modernization at those BCPs in the territory of Ukraine, we were in close cooperation with the Missions of the International Organization for Migration in Ukraine and in the Republic of Moldova (IOM Missions) which had invested considerable efforts into the implementation of this Project over this challenging period.

In early 2020, a new Project "EU4 Border Security", financed by the EU and co-financed by the Moldovan and Ukrainian Governments, was successfully launched at the Moldova-Ukraine border. EUBAM facilitated dialogue between the partner services and IOM Missions. Even amid this challenging environment, enormous work has been done. We expect that the novel video control system with number plate recognition feature will be introduced at several BCPs at the Moldova-Ukraine border by the end of 2021.

As part of commitments under the EU Association Agreement, the Moldovan Government approved a new draft Customs Code in the first reading. The next stage is development of relevant by-laws. In this regard, we count on support of our European partners.

The past year key result was a completion of the project on upgrade the MDCS information system. The system will enable a further introduction of new trade facilitation instruments, being particularly relevant in the current realities.

In 2020, the Road Map on mutual recognition of Authorised Economic Operators (AEO) agreed between the Republic of Moldova and EU has been updated. The EU experts analysed the Moldovan regulatory and legal framework on AEO, having established its compliance with the EU standards. Presently, the efforts are invested into the information exchange on AEO, that should be followed up by validation of AEO programs.

Despite of the challenging period the law enforcement cooperation remains dynamic. The Mission facilitated the Joint Operation 'ORION II' on combating trafficking in weapons, including a range of activities aimed at enhancing efficiency of the partner services in counteracting smuggling of cigarettes, firearms and radioactive materials across the border.

We would like to express our gratitude to the Mission and Ukrainian colleagues for their close cooperation under the complicated conditions of 2020, and wish all our partners health and success in performing their planned tasks and activities in 2021.



State Customs Service of Ukraine

Pavlo Riabikin

Head of the State Customs Service of Ukraine



In 2021, the State Customs Service of Ukraine (UASCS) will pursue the initiated policy on reforming the customs authorities and fulfilling the commitments under the Ukraine-EU Association Agreement.

The key priorities have been determined as follows: establishing a single legal entity and reforming the personnel management system; developing a new customs IT system, a separate customs audit system, a "smart border crossing point" operating platform, that enables automation of all the processes at the BCPs, ensuring the required functionality of the New Computerized Transit System (NCTS) compatible with the European Common Transit System; introducing a criminal liability for goods smuggling (including excise goods); combating cross-border crime and enhancing international cooperation in this area; reconstructing international border crossing points in line with the European standards and launching the joint control.

In November 2020, Ukraine embarked on rolling out the common transit procedure. The nationwide introduction of NCTS should unfold as a user-friendly service for business and a helpful working instrument for customs officials.

In December 2020, a trial run of the NCTS Phase 4 software was commissioned. Ukraine is expected to fully launch the NCTS Phase 4 at the national level in May 2021 and commence activities on accession to the Convention by the end of 2021.

Jointly with the Ministry of Finance of Ukraine, UASCS proceeds with development of regulatory legal acts required for operation of authorized economic operators.

In the process of implementation of the EU-Ukraine Association Agreement, the advisory support of EUBAM experts is extremely important and effective. UASCS expects to continue the cooperation in this dimension and relies on the Mission's support in involving international donors into the technical assistance projects on overhauling the border crossing points.

The EUBAM's substantial contribution is remarkable in joint international operations on combating cross-border crime at the Ukraine-Moldova border with participation of international and EU

law enforcement agencies as well as international law enforcement organizations such as Frontex, Europol, and SELEC.

In 2020, UASCS successfully participated in joint international operations: 'ORION II' on counteracting trafficking in weapons, ammunition, nuclear and radiological materials and 'Demetra II', including meetings of the Arms Working Group, Task Force Tobacco and Inter-agency Regional Analytical Group on cross-border crime in the Odesa region.

We highly appreciate the EUBAM's assistance in developing infrastructure projects on joint control implementation at BCPs along the Ukraine-Moldova border.

In 2021, in the context of further cooperation with EUBAM and partner services, UASCS gives a priority to: extending activities on implementation of joint control at BCPs, enhancing security at the Ukraine-Moldova border, engaging international partners into the technical assistance projects on BCPs infrastructure development.

Taking this opportunity, I would like to express my gratitude to EUBAM, partner services of Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova, and international organizations alike for their effective cooperation, encouragement, openness, commitment to dialogue and support in reinforcing security at the Ukraine-Moldova border.



ADVISORY BOARD

The Advisory Board is the decision-making and governing body of EUBAM which meets to review and assess the progress achieved by the Mission in all its fields of activity.

Representatives of European Union Delegations to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, European External Action Service, European Commission, Foreign Ministries of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, border, customs and law enforcement agencies of both countries as well as International Organization for Migration and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe are members in the Advisory Board, that is chaired by the Head of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova.

The 34th meeting of the Board was held in a videoconference format on 16 September 2020, giving its members an opportunity to review and acknowledge the progress achieved by the Mission and its Partner Services in challenging situation emerged due to the COVID-19 outbreak, and encourage the parties to continue working with the same dedication and high professionalism.

EUBAM's and its Partner Services' sustained contribution to launching an inclusive dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol, as well as their support to the establishment of joint control along Moldova-Ukraine state border, together with efforts in preventing, detecting and investigating cross-border crimes were among the most important achievements highlighted by the Advisory Board.



SUPPORTING TRANSNISTRIAN REGION-RELATED CONFIDENCE BUILDING MEASURES

In 2020, despite all the difficulties associated with COVID-19, the Mission continued its contribution to launching an inclusive dialogue between Chisinau and Tiraspol aimed at finding appropriate solutions for the resumption of unhindered movement of goods across the Transnistrian region for facilitating the international trade. In that regard, the Mission produced several meaningful papers that were shared with high-level officials in the Republic of Moldova. Moreover, the Mission persevered in remaining on guard against health and economic hazards and strengthened its efforts towards bringing imported tobacco products in compliance with national health regulations. Additionally, since the ruling of the state of emergency in the Republic of Moldova, EUBAM constantly monitored and provided unbiased observations to the EU Delegation and the OSCE Mission on the implementation of measures adopted by Chisinau and Tiraspol to soften the impact of the pandemic on trade. In this context, the Mission welcomed Chisinau's endorsement of a new importation mechanism for the left bank economic operators, aimed at reducing the consequences of the temporary closure of the border crossing points at the central segment of Moldova-Ukraine border.

Contributing to the tobacco health standards in the region

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE THEMATIC EXPERT (WORKING) GROUPS

During the reporting period, EUBAM, as part of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova team, attended all together eight meetings of five Expert (Working) Groups on Economy, Commerce and External Trade, Customs, Road Transportation, Healthcare, and Railroad Transport and Communications respectively. The meetings of the Expert (Working) Groups focused on topical issues and resulted, among others, in the extension of the Protocol Decision on Principles of Full-fledged Resumption of Rail Freight Communication across the Territory of Transnistria until 31 December 2020 and in signing of an addendum for including trailers under the scope of the 2018 'Protocol Decision on the participation of vehicles from the Transnistrian region not involved in commercial activities' into the international road traffic.

RESUMPTION OF UNHINDERED MOVEMENT OF GOODS THROUGH TRANSNISTRIAN REGION

EUBAM continued to encourage Chisinau and Tiraspol to initiate a dialogue aimed at resumption of unhindered movement of goods across the Transnistrian region that would facilitate international trade. To this end, in December 2019, EUBAM initiated a discussion with both sides' relevant structures for presenting its findings on impediments to the revitalization of transit across the Transnistrian region and viable solutions. Those were further shared with the Deputy Prime Minister for Reintegration of the Republic of Moldova to provide grounds for in-depth technical discussions within the Customs Expert (Working) Group that were commenced subsequently by the sides in February and continued throughout the year.

MONITORING IMPACT OF STATE OF EMERGENCY ON TRANSNISTRIAN TRADE

Since the ruling of the state of emergency in the Republic of Moldova, upon requests, EUBAM has monitored and provided unbiased observations to the EU Delegation and the OSCE Mission to Moldova on implementation of measures adopted by Chisinau and Tiraspol to soften the impact of the pandemic on trade. A new importation mechanism for left bank economic operators for specific groups of commodities was endorsed by Chisinau to lessen consequences of the temporary closure of border crossing points at the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine border.

EUBAM'S SUPPORT TO THE ENFORCEMENT OF TOBACCO HEALTH STANDARDS

In 2020, more than 1.6 billion cigarettes were imported into the Transnistrian region exceeding the local consumption there. Based on its findings, the Mission alerted the Moldovan authorities regarding the lack of the due health warning labelling of those cigarettes and non-compliance with the Moldovan Law on tobacco control that resulted in launching respective actions for enforcing the health standards for such products in the region.



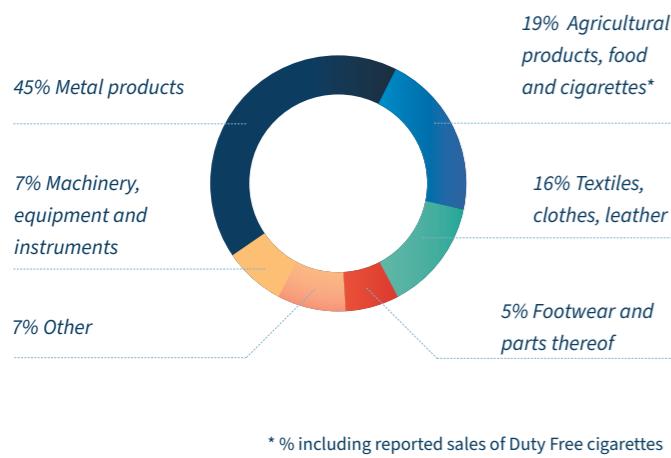
EXTERNAL TRADE OF TRANSNISTRIAN REGION¹

In the period January-December 2020, Transnistrian foreign trade (goods turnover) edged down by 5% in USD monetary value compared to the precedent twelve months. The balance of Transnistrian foreign trade in goods was negative, posting \$205mln trade deficit. The value of goods exported by Transnistrian economic operators in 2020 decreased by \$85mln or 16.5%, accounting for \$431mln.

Mainly, metal products (45%), agricultural and food products (19%), textiles and clothes (16%), machinery, equipment and instruments (7%), footwear (5%) built up the pattern of Transnistrian merchandise exports in the reporting period. (fig. 1)

Categories of transnistrian goods exported and their share by value, USD mln

Fig. 1



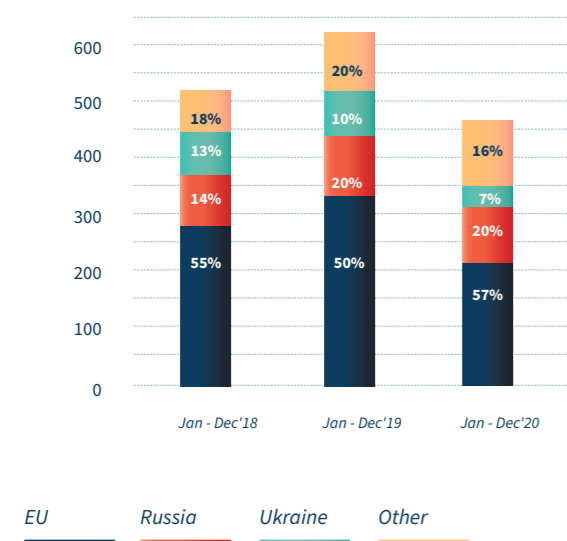
Both commodity and resources markets of Transnistrian industrial sectors, including metallurgy, textile and garment, agriculture and machinery are outside the region.

The external trade of the Transnistrian region continued to demonstrate a strong reliance on the EU markets. Regardless of its 5%-decrease year-on-year, exports to the EU stood at 57% of overall Transnistrian export, accounting for \$245mln in 2020. The Russian Federation (19%), Ukraine (7%) and Serbia (2%) ranked second, third and fourth, accordingly, while the UK (1.9%) rounded out the top five key markets for the Transnistrian exports. These top five markets claimed around 88% of overall Transnistrian exports in USD value. During the reporting period, 43% of Transnistrian commodity imports were traded with EU member states. (fig. 2)

The business environment and export potential of the Transnistrian region was compounded and decelerated by the limitations imposed during the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. A decrease spanned nearly all key categories of the Transnistrian exports, except for metal products, to all key trading destinations. Export of agricultural products and food was a major trigger for overall Transnistrian export to decrease, having dropped by 53% in the reporting year, yet being the second biggest export (19%). (fig.1) Overall decrease in exports of agricultural and food products from the Transnistrian region to a greater extent resulted from a ban imposed there on export of agricultural products, namely, wheat and maize, starting from April 2020 until the end of February 2021. However, export of products covered by the ban were allowed in certain quantities upon a decision of the special permissive commission in the Transnistrian region. In the reporting period, exports of wheat dropped by 68%, of maize – by 30%, of sunflower seeds – by 40% and of rapeseeds - by 52%. In USD value, 93% of this Transnistrian export category was collectively attributed to sunflower seeds and rapeseeds, wheat, barley and maize, ethyl alcohol and wines, vegetables and fruit. The EU and the UK were principal destinations for Transnistrian sunflower seeds, Switzerland - for maize, Indonesia led as an importer of wheat, while the Russian Federation ranked first largely importing fruit and vegetables.

Markets for transnistrian exporters in % of export value, USD mln

Fig. 2

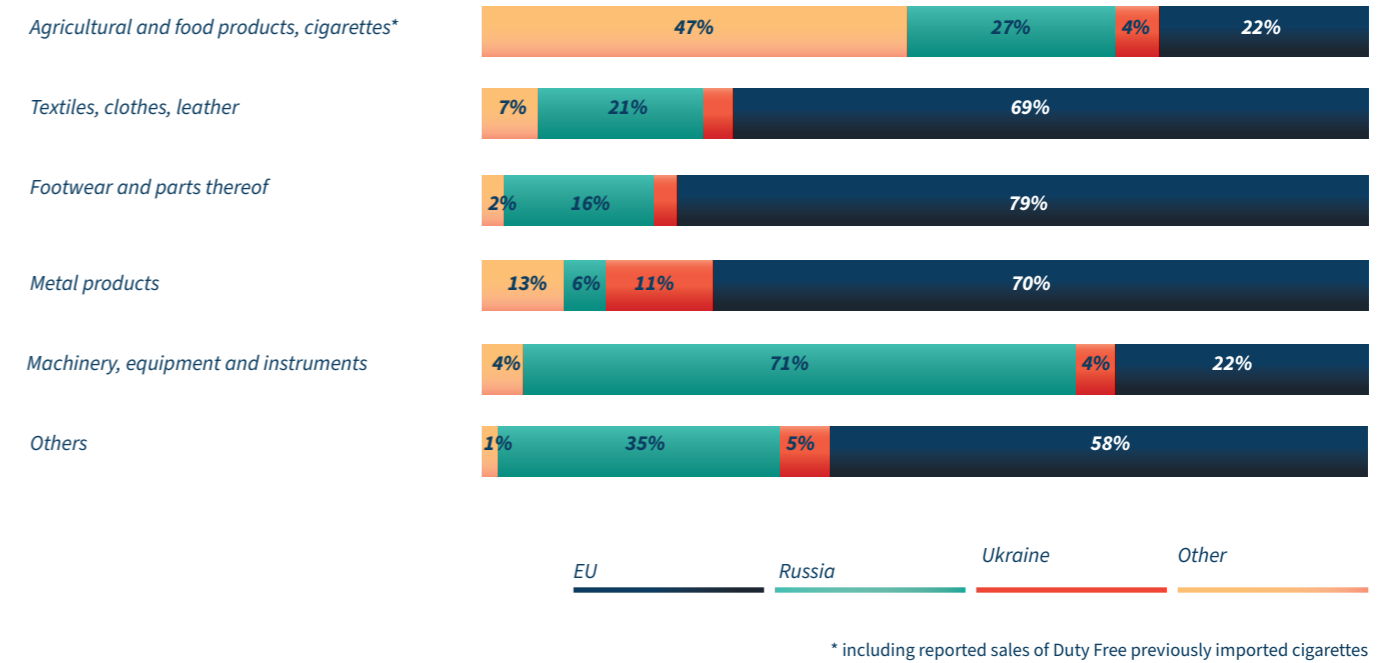


Despite a general downward trend in export, Transnistrian exports of metal products experienced a moderate increase – by 11% in USD value, year-on-year. Metal products continued as the largest share standing at 45% in the Transnistrian export structure. In the reporting period, the EU continued as a pivotal destination for Transnistrian metal products and a major supplier of steel scrap, claiming 70% of Transnistrian metal products exports (fig.3) and 98% of imports of scrap metal. The Transnistrian region increased exports of metal products to the EU by 10% in the reporting period. Yet, 89% of all metal products export in USD value were exports of Transnistrian steel products, with the EU claiming 71% of this share, followed by Ukraine and Serbia. The Transnistrian region largely expanded its trade in metal products to African countries, namely, to Senegal and Kenya, Ghana, Mali, Tunisia, Côte d'Ivoire and Togo.

Transnistrian export to the Russian Federation decreased by 20%, being extended to all key categories of exports, but textiles. The Russian Federation claimed around 71% of Transnistrian exports of equipment and instruments. Export of all major goods to Ukraine was at downtrend in the reporting period, posting an overall decrease by 37%. Yet, Ukraine retained its ranking as a second biggest importer of Transnistrian metal products. (fig. 3).

Key categories of exported goods and their markets, % of USD export value

Fig. 3

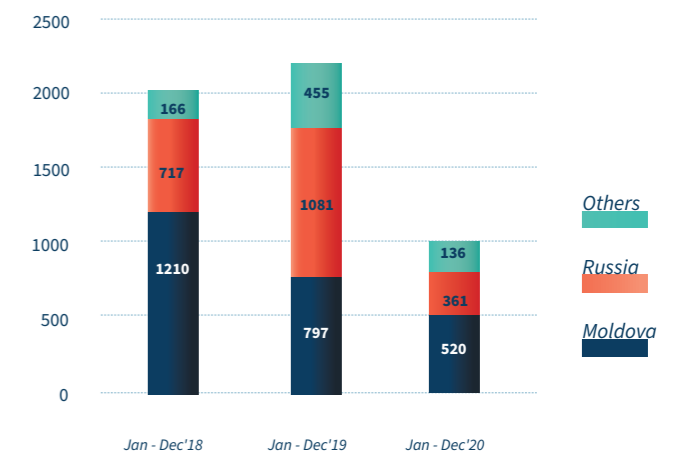


TRAVELLER TRENDS

In view of COVID-19, during the reporting period, Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova were undertaking restrictive measures at the border aimed at preventing further pandemic spread, among which were temporary closure of BCPs, termination of pedestrian traffic at BCPs, banned entry for foreigners and stateless persons which consequently influenced the major border situation parameters including the Transnistrian segment of the Moldova-Ukraine state border. Although the overall border security situation remained stable, the border traffic saw unprecedented steep downfall between April and December 2020 - the period of the pandemic-related restrictions on movement across the border. Thus, in 2020, the number of travellers crossing the Transnistrian segment of Moldova-Ukraine border dropped by 81% compared to 2019 (0.67 mln travellers in comparison with 3.5mln travellers). The refused border crossings dropped by 56% being directly proportional to the decreased border flows. The number of border crossings made by the Russian passport holders dropped by 67%, compared to the previous year, while the Russian passport holders accounted for 35% of all travellers refused entry in the reporting twelve months (fig.4).

Number of travellers refused entry to Ukraine by citizenship

Fig. 4



¹ Explanatory note: the figures are provided by Moldovan Customs Service in MDL (Moldovan Lei) and do not include internal trade operations between the two banks of the Nistru River. All conversions into USD currency are calculated based on the average monthly exchange rate of the National Bank of the Republic of Moldova. All computations are based exclusively on the USD value of exports and imports.

IMPLEMENTING THE INTEGRATED BORDER MANAGEMENT CONCEPT

In 2020, EUBAM continued to work with the Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs agencies for supporting the establishment of joint control at other border crossing points along the common border, due to the benefits this mechanism offers to travellers, traders and border security. Therefore, over the reporting period, EUBAM, together with its Partner Services, advanced the infrastructural projects together with respective procedures facilitating the joint control implementation and coordinated their efforts towards the implementation of full-fledged joint control at Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc and Giurgiulesti-Reni jointly operated border crossing points. Moreover, the Mission initiated and supported the elaboration of technical procedures connected to joint control that cover the removal of seized goods and vehicles and transfer of detained persons from jointly operated border crossing points. The reporting period also witnessed the launching of a new project 'EU 4 Border Security' aimed at implementing video-control systems at road border crossing points for information sharing between the Moldovan and Ukrainian border authorities. Furthermore, the Mission assisted the Moldovan border and customs agencies in developing a Cooperation Plan on planning and carrying out joint operations of mobile units and started a similar initiative in Ukraine, developing

a concept paper on a pilot project on joint mobile units in the Odesa region. Also under this objective, the Mission invested efforts into reviewing the operations of the Common Contact Point 'Palanca' and launched the Joint Assistance Exercise 'DEMETRA II', a comprehensive verification exercise on customs controls performed by the partner services at selected border crossing points along the Moldova-Ukraine border.



In December 2019, the EU launched a new IBM Initiative 'EU 4 Border Security'

TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO EXTENSION OF JOINT CONTROL AT THE MOLDOVA-UKRAINE BORDER

Over the reporting period, EUBAM, together with the Moldovan and Ukrainian border and customs agencies, continued supporting the process of modernizing the facilities at Kuchurhan and Reni road border crossing points (BCPs) in order to create appropriate conditions for implementing joint control at those BCPs. To this end, EUBAM supported the verification visits for assessing the progress in refurbishing the border facilities and facilitated testing joint control technology. Moreover, the Mission initiated and supported elaboration of technical procedures connected to joint control regarding removal of goods, vehicles and persons from the jointly operated BCPs located in Ukraine. Later on, in June and in September 2020, EUBAM facilitated further discussions on preparations for launching full-fledged joint control at those BCPs.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW IBM INITIATIVE 'EU 4 BORDER SECURITY'

In December 2019, the EU launched a new IBM Initiative 'EU 4 Border Security' aimed at implementing an automated video control systems (VICOS) for information sharing between the Moldovan and Ukrainian border authorities including Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) as well as strengthening the blue border surveillance. Over the reporting period, EUBAM offered its expertise and support to that project advocating for the implementation of shared solutions for video control system and exchange of number plates data that would stimulate inter-agency cooperation at the jointly operated BCPs. In October and December, EUBAM hosted two meetings on the 'EU 4 Border Security' Project organised by IOM Mission to Moldova with participation of the EU Delegation to Moldova, Moldovan and Ukrainian customs and border agencies where the participants discussed a possible procurement of video control and automated number plate recognition systems for common use in the mode of joint control at four preselected BCPs, and developed alternative technical solutions for their implementation.



SUPPORT TO ENHANCING COVID-19 BORDER RELATED PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

After of COVID-19 outbreak EUBAM assisted its partner services in the issues related to the pandemic emergency. In this connection, in the Republic of Moldova, EUBAM experts shared with Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS) and Moldovan Border Police (MDBP) the EU Guidelines for border management measures to protect health and ensure availability of goods and essential services as well as mentored customs risk analysts in preventing and disrupting supply chains of counterfeit and dangerous products for human health and safety. In Ukraine, upon request, the Mission drafted and shared with the Southern Regional Directorate of Ukrainian State Border Guard Service (UASBGS) the guidelines on control at border crossing points and customer service situations with regard to a person of being infected with COVID-19 or having other infectious disease as well as on precautionary measures against infectious diseases. Aiming at reduction of coronavirus spread by keeping the first line border police/border guard officers safer, EUBAM delivered to MDBP and the Southern Regional Directorate of UASBGS 4,500 respirators (type FFP2) and face protective shields and 1,2 tons of antiseptic.

VERIFICATION EXERCISE ON CUSTOMS CONTROL OF CARGO TRAFFIC

In November 2020, EUBAM, together with the Moldovan and Ukrainian customs agencies, launched a Joint Assistance Exercise 'DEMETRA II', a comprehensive verification exercise on customs controls performed by the partner services at the selected BCPs. The exercise was focused on verification of customs controls applied to cargo road and rail traffic. EUBAM evaluation teams conducted online interviews with representatives of both customs services and performed site visits to the selected BCPs to assess the facilities, staff and equipment used for customs control, national databases, customs control procedures, trade facilitation and the level of cooperation for border management. Findings of the evaluation held at five road and three rail BCPs will serve partner customs services for strengthening customs control of cargo traffic.



Map of JOBCPs located at the Moldova - Ukraine border

COMMON CONTACT POINT 'PALANCA' EVALUATION

EUBAM moved forward with its methodological support to the evaluation of the Common Contact Point 'Palanca', opened in September 2019 and facilitating the information exchange on persons and vehicles crossing the border and information related to the border security. Over the reporting period, the Evaluation Methodology and Plan facilitated by EUBAM were endorsed and technical requirements to the data collection agreed. When completed, the evaluation will allow to identify ways to expand and develop cooperation for benefits of the border services and other law enforcement agencies of the two countries.

STRENGTHENING OPERATIONS OF INTERAGENCY MOBILE UNITS

In the Republic of Moldova, EUBAM assisted Moldovan Border Police (MDBP) and Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS) in developing a Cooperation Plan on planning and carrying out joint operations of interagency mobile units and Standard Operating Procedure for carrying out joint missions. The documents were agreed and signed by the Heads of MDCS and MDBP in February 2020. In this context, EUBAM also undertook a review of the MDBP mobile units' operation along with the relevant legislation and presented solutions for enhancing their effectiveness. In Ukraine, in the same vein, EUBAM shaped a pilot project aimed at strengthening interagency cooperation, contributing to overall reduction of goods smuggling, human trafficking, irregular migration, and customs frauds, and developed a draft protocol on joint mobile units between UASBGS and UASCS in the Odesa region, constituting a legal foundation for interagency mobile units.

FIGHTING CROSS-BORDER CRIME



In 2020, EUBAM continued to maintain its efforts in addressing the threats related to smuggling tobacco products, firearms and radioactive materials trafficking. Hence, together with the national law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, and in cooperation with Europol, Frontex and OSCE, the Mission launched a new joint initiative for counteracting illicit firearms trafficking by setting up the Arms Working Group. Under this initiative EUBAM planned and successfully implemented a series of tangible actions, namely: three practical exercises. The inter-agency regional analytical group, set up with the Mission's support last year in the Odesa region, continued to show its vitality in meeting the current operational demand, this time in assessing the threats regarding drug trafficking in the Odesa Region and cigarette smuggling through the Odesa region ports, helping border and law enforcement agencies to better respond to challenges in those fields. Against the same backdrop and having in mind the need for strengthening the analytical capacity of the Partner Services, EUBAM scaled up its assistance to the Moldovan and Ukrainian border agencies in detection of forged and falsified travel documents via delivering a series of on-the-job mentoring sessions for first-line border police/guard officers.



NEW JOINT INITIATIVE FOR COUNTERACTING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING IN WEAPONS, AMMUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVES

In December 2019, EUBAM together with the national LEAs and supported by Europol, Frontex and OSCE, launched a joint initiative for counteracting illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunitions, explosives and CBRN materials. To this end, Arms Working Group was set up and entrusted to strengthen the partner services' efforts in preventing and detecting these specific crimes. Then in February, at the first regular meeting, the Arms Working Group adopted the Action Plan for 2020, covering joint activities, aimed at increasing of competence of LEAs' personnel, as well as strengthening the operational response and analytical support in that field. In November, during the second operational meeting of the Arms Working Group held in a video-conference format, the participating agencies reviewed implementation of the 2020 Action Plan and challenges faced during the coronavirus pandemic, presenting also their proposals for activities in 2021. Both meetings provided a platform for information exchange on modi operandi and smuggling channels, therefore contributing to the improvement of the situational picture in illegal firearms trafficking.



MASTERING THE OPERATIONAL RESPONSE TO RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS TRAFFICKING

In September and October, EUBAM in cooperation with Moldovan and Ukrainian national nuclear and radiological agencies facilitated a practical exercise for mastering the operational response by border guard/police and customs officers to effectively tackle trafficking of radioactive materials. The exercise was held on both sides of the border, namely at Criva and Mamalyha border crossing points, as well as the adjacent border area, with the strict observance of the COVID-19 restrictive measures. During the two-day exercise, EUBAM experts shared their experience and assisted the national authorities, who verified and improved information exchange systems as well as the data sharing mechanisms for cooperation at the national and international levels. The participants gave a positive assessment to the exercise and underlined its importance for enhancing the LEAs' capability to detect and intercept the smuggling of radiological and nuclear materials across the border.

PRACTICAL EXERCISE ON CONTROLLED DELIVERY OF ILLICIT FIREARMS

In September and October EUBAM in cooperation with security, police, border and customs agencies and prosecutors from the General Prosecutors' Offices of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine as well as the Moldovan Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases implemented a practical exercise on controlled delivery of illicit firearms. The exercise looked to increase operational capacities and strengthen cooperation among the partner services in running control deliveries and tested and worked out the algorithm of actions according to the adopted earlier scenario.



6,389 pcs of ammunition seized

JOINT OPERATION 'ORION II' ON COMBATTING ILLICIT WEAPONS, AMMUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVES TRAFFICKING

Considering the high risk of illicit firearms trafficking in the region, EUBAM facilitated conducting the Joint Operation 'ORION II' aimed at preventing and counteracting illicit firearms trafficking with participation of border, customs and security agencies of the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, border agencies of Romania and Poland, as well as OSCE and Europol. Therefore, over the period of September – November, being supported by the European Union's agencies Frontex and Europol, the operation, although affected by the coronavirus pandemic, resulted into a significant number of detentions of small arms (194 pcs.), light weapons (282 pcs.), ammunition (6,389 pcs.) and explosives (19 pcs./4,65 kg).

SUPPORT TO THE INTERAGENCY ANALYTICAL WORKING GROUPS

In January 2020, in the Republic of Moldova, EUBAM participated in the national and regional interagency risk analysis working groups' meetings, in Chisinau and Cahul respectively. In the same context, over the reporting period, in Ukraine, EUBAM facilitated four meetings of the Interagency Regional Analytical Group for Regular Assessment of Risks and Threats Related to Cross-border Crime in the Odesa region, set up with EUBAM's support in March 2019. During those sessions, EUBAM promoted development of the threat assessment on weapons, ammunitions, explosives and CBRN materials trafficking, and offered its assistance in drafting such analytical documents.

ANNUAL TASK FORCE TOBACCO MEETING

In November, EUBAM held an online meeting of the Task Force Tobacco (TFT), bringing together representatives of LEAs of the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Poland, Romania, EU agencies Europol and OLAF, including Ukrainian Tobacco Association "Ukrtutun" and major cigarette producers. TFT noted that the COVID-19 pandemic caused a significant decrease in the small-scale cigarette smuggling, though it did not affect the large-scale illicit whites trafficking by transnational organized crime groups. To effectively address or minimize those risks, TFT emphasized a need of further strengthening institutions' legal enforcement capabilities in addition to introducing appropriate penalization of excisable goods smuggling and deterrent and punitive measures into criminal laws.

JOINT ASSISTANCE EXERCISE 'PYTHIA' ON INTERNATIONAL POSTAL DELIVERIES AND EXPRESS PARCELS

In November, EUBAM and Moldovan Customs Service (MDCS) conducted Joint Assistance Exercise (JAE) 'PYTHIA' on control of international postal deliveries and express parcels. The exercise aimed to support MDCS in identifying potential threats and substantiate new risks in international postal deliveries and express parcels, increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of customs control and identifying new risks indicators. 114 parcels (25,5%) out of 447 parcels selected for physical inspection brought positive results. The detected irregularities were mainly related to undervaluation and misdeclaration of goods.

MENTORING SESSIONS ON DETECTION OF FORGED AND FALSIFIED TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

In October, EUBAM scaled up its assistance to MDBP and UASBGS in detection of forged and falsified travel documents via delivering a series of on-the-job mentoring sessions for border police/guard officers at the Chisinau International Airport BCP and Kuchurhan-Pervomaisc jointly operated BCP. The mentoring sessions were delivered in line with the outbreak of fake documents at the borders, recently announced by Frontex as caused by pandemic restrictions, when travellers were often requested to submit additional supporting documents.

SEIZURES/DETENTIONS AT THE MOLDOVA-UKRAINE BORDER IN JANUARY – DECEMBER 2020*



*Seized/Detained by Moldovan Border Police, Ukrainian State Border Guard Service, Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova and State Fiscal Service/State Customs Service of Ukraine

COOPERATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

COORDINATION WITH EUROPEAN UNION PARTNERS

During the reporting period, the Mission continued to maintain close cooperation and coordination with the EU Delegations to the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, and provided regular briefings on the developments in regards to the Transnistrian settlement process, the extension of the joint control to the Moldova-Ukraine border, and progress within border agencies. Regarding the customs and trade matters, EUBAM participated in the 6th EU-MD Customs Sub-Committee Meeting, established in the framework of the Association Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Moldova. EUBAM also coordinated the activities in the Republic of Moldova with the EU High Level Advisers on Customs and Tax Policy and on Confidence Building Measures, and in Ukraine, maintained collaboration with the EU Advisory Mission (EUAM).

EUBAM kept close cooperation with Frontex and Europol. Furthermore, upon the Frontex invitation, EUBAM participated in the 3rd Working Group meeting on elaborating a handbook for border guard and customs officers for detecting firearms, organised in Warsaw. In the same context, EUBAM coordinated its efforts also with two EU-funded projects implemented by CEPOL and Europol, participating, in October, in the online kick-off meeting of the Training and Operational Partnership Against Organized Crime (TOPCOP) Project. Then, in November, EUBAM attended the online kick-off meeting of the EU-funded project Fighting Organised Crime in Eastern Partnership Region, led by Europol and aimed at strengthening the crime-fighting capacities of countries in the EaP region and their operational cooperation with the EU Member States and agencies.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

EUBAM had regular technical meetings with OSCE Mission to Moldova for coordinating the common activities related to confidence building measures between Chisinau and Tiraspol. The Mission continued cooperation with SELEC contributing to thematic task forces on Countering Human Trafficking and Illegal Migration during the meeting in November.

EUBAM also provided briefings on its activities in the field of border security to law-enforcement representatives of the US Embassy in Ukraine and Swiss Embassy in Bulgaria covering the Republic of Moldova. In Ukraine, Head of Mission attended the 1st OSCE Governance Board Meeting on 'Strengthening capacities of Ukrainian authorities in preventing and combating illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives in all its aspects'. In the same connection, EUBAM participated in a workshop on detection of firearms components, organized by SELEC in Greece.



COORDINATION WITH NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

The Mission coordinated closely with the Moldovan and Ukrainian authorities the implementation of the EUBAM 12 Action Plan. In the Republic of Moldova, Head of Mission held several working meetings with the Deputy Prime Minister on Reintegration, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration, Head of the General Border Police Inspectorate and Director of the Customs Service of the Republic of Moldova. In Ukraine, Head of Mission held meetings with the Deputy Director of Directorate General for the European Union and NATO, Special Representative of Ukraine

for the Transnistrian Conflict Settlement, Head of the State Border Guard Service and Deputy Head of the State Customs Service, First Deputy Head of the Security Service. In Odesa, HoM held working meetings with the Head of the Southern Regional Directorate of UASBGS, and Head of the Odesa Customs House of UASCS. In the course of the meetings, HoM discussed and coordinated with the senior national officials the confidence-building measures developments in the Transnistria settlement process, border management, prospects and challenges for expansion of the joint control, fight against cross-border crime as well as ways for further cooperation.

H.E. Peter Michalko

European Union Ambassador to the Republic of Moldova



EUBAM's contribution towards offering and implementing EU expertise and best practices in border management is testimony to the European Union's lasting partnership with both the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, on the one hand, and a clear expression of its will to further assist in resolving the Transnistrian issue, on the other.

H.E. Matti Maasikas

European Union Ambassador to Ukraine



The EU has finalised the reconstruction of two border crossing points between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova and provided substantial investment. Now, we encourage the Ukrainian side to also go ahead with agreed renovation works and provision of infrastructure in order to swiftly launch joint border operations, to the benefit of people and trade.

Mr Gheorghe Leucă

State Secretary within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova



Despite the emerging difficulties due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Mission continued to advance the work on supporting confidence building measures, implementing integrated border management and combating cross-border crime. We remain convinced that EUBAM represents a substantial tool for border management and risk analysis in line with the interests of the population of both countries.

Mr. Serhii Saienko

Deputy Director General of the Directorate for the European Union and the NATO of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs



We cannot underestimate the Mission's contribution to the infrastructure development of BCPs and we highlight joint actions lead by EUBAM to counter illicit trafficking in arms/CBRN materials within the recently established Working Group and other violations during joint operations and investigations in the border areas.

EUBAM TODAY

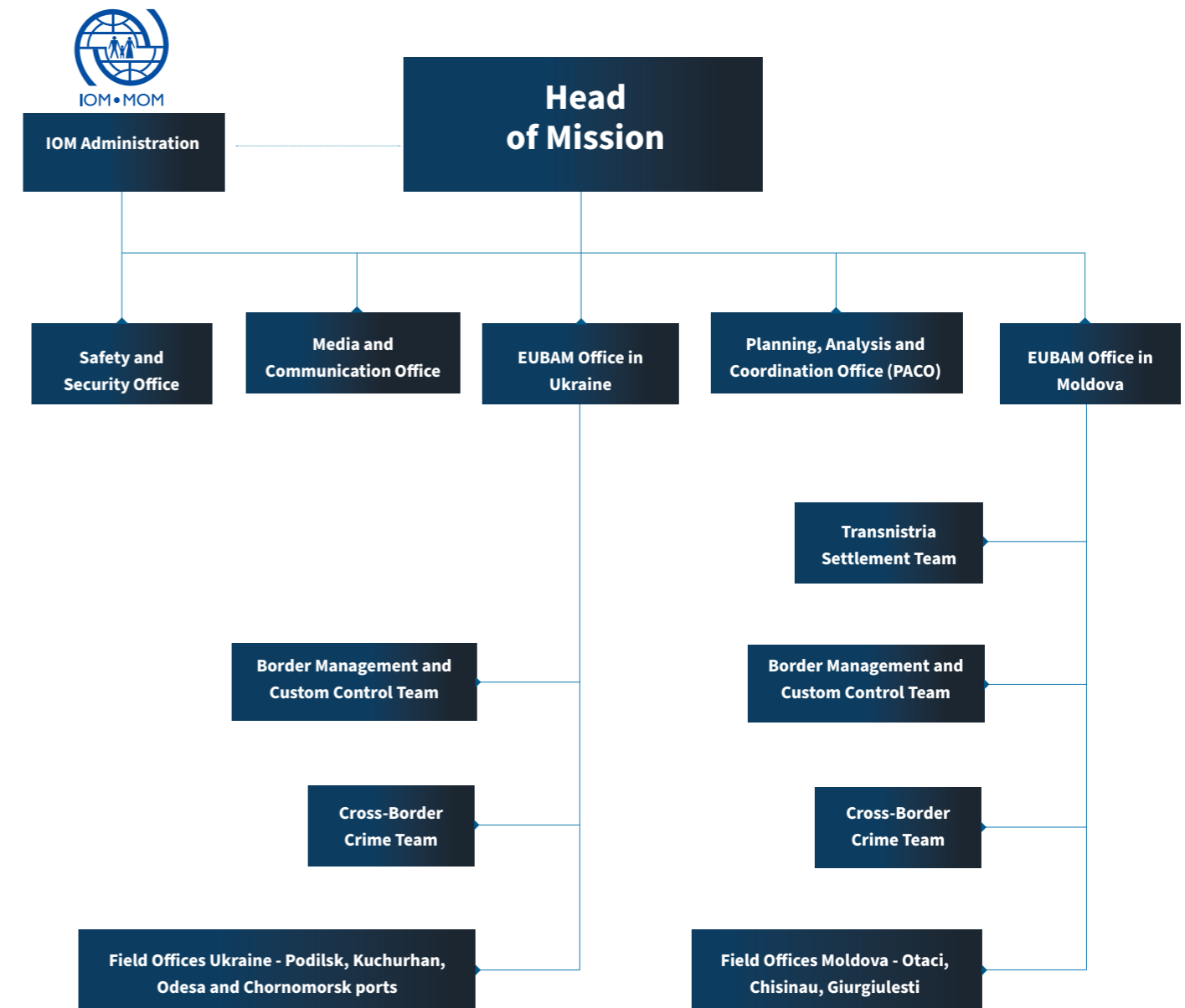
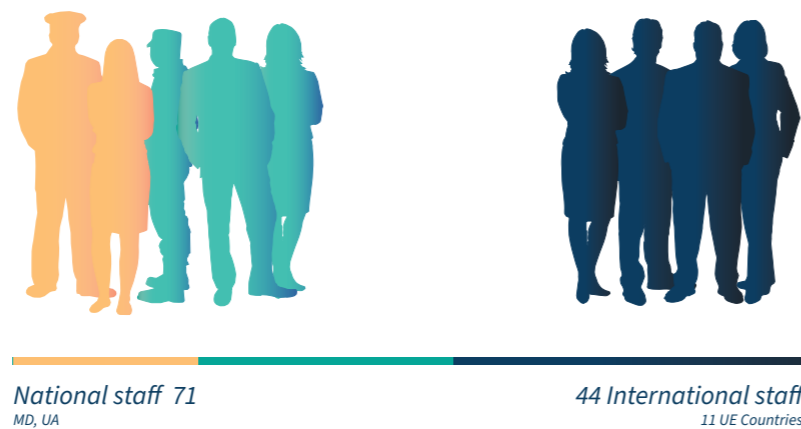
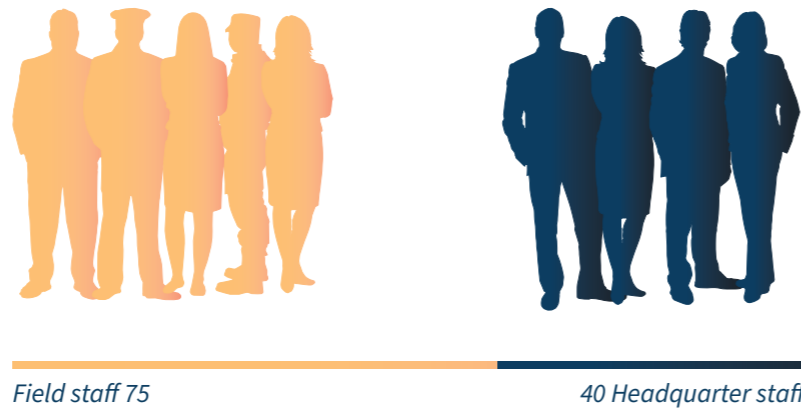
The European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM) was launched in November 2005 to promote border control, customs and trade norms and practices that meet European Union standards, and serve the needs of its two partner countries. It is an advisory, technical Mission headquartered in Odesa (Ukraine) with two country offices and six field offices in its area of operation. EUBAM activities promote economic development and enhance regional security. The Mission contributes to cross-border co-operation and confidence-building, and helps to improve efficiency, transparency and security along the Moldova-Ukraine border.

The Mission's aims are:

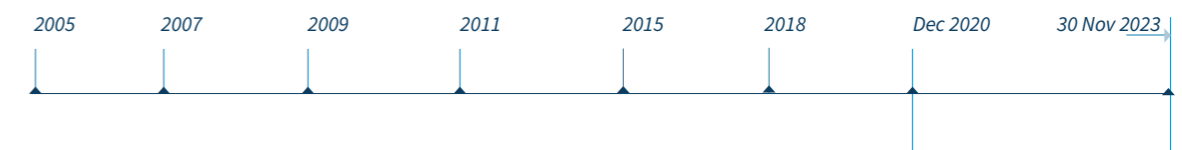
- » the development of Transnistria-related confidence-building measures and approximation of legislation and procedures in customs, trade, transport and trans-boundary management;
- » the implementation of the Integrated Border Management at the Moldova-Ukraine border with a special attention to its Transnistrian segment; and
- » the fight against cross-border crime on the Moldova-Ukraine border, especially at the Transnistrian segment.

EUBAM in numbers

Total EUBAM staff 115, as for 1 December 2020



The Mission's mandate has been extended six times



EUBAM 12 ACTION PLAN

Specific objective 1	To support the development of Transnistrian region-related confidence-building measures and approximation of legislation and procedures in customs, trade, transport and trans-boundary management.	
Output 1.1	Customs and trade related legislation and procedures on both sides of the Dniester River approximated.	
Activities	1.1.1	Advise on the approximation of customs duties, VAT and excise between Chisinau and Tiraspol.
	1.1.2	Advise on the approximation of regulations and procedures on customs valuation and the alignment of regulations on fees and charges to the provisions of Articles VII and VIII of General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) between Chisinau and Tiraspol.
	1.1.3	Advise Transnistria on the implementation of Articles 2, 4-6 of the World Trade Organisation's Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement.
	1.1.4	Advise Transnistria on the implementation of the World Trade Organisation's Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) protection standards and market surveillance.
	1.1.5	Advise Chisinau and Tiraspol in improving the customs framework and further simplification of formalities in trade in goods.
Output 1.2	Co-operation among responsible authorities on the enforcement of customs and trade legislation and procedures on both sides of the Dniester River enhanced.	
Activities	1.2.1	Arrange joint anti-smuggling operations between Chisinau and Tiraspol customs structures.
	1.2.2	Seek agreement and develop an automated exchange of customs data and information on registration of juridical persons involved in trans-boundary and international trade.
	1.2.3	Profile and analyse Transnistrian external trade activity, including on the implementation of the single customs regime (i.e. 2005 Moldova-Ukraine Joint Declaration).
	1.2.4	Verify clearance of goods imported or exported by Transnistrian economic operators is performed in a transparent and non-discriminatory manner.
Output 1.3	Sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary practices on both sides of the Dniester River aligned with international standards to mitigate human, animal or plant health risks in trade.	
	1.3.1	Promote co-operation between Chisinau and Tiraspol to uphold regional consumer safety.
Output 1.4	Practical solutions for the fully-fledged resumption of passenger and freight traffic across Transnistria adopted by the responsible authorities.	
Activities	1.4.1	Develop and sustain transport related confidence-building measures in co-operation with the OSCE.
	1.4.2	Contribute to defusing disruption of passenger and freight services across the administrative boundary line and transit, import and export of cargo overseas by road and rail through Transnistria, in co-operation with the OSCE.
Output 1.5	Trans-boundary crisis management co-operation enhanced.	
	1.5.1	Encourage establishment of contact points and information exchange mechanisms to respond to any type of incidents (flooding, serious incidents in either bank of the Dniester River, etc.) that may affect the movement of people and goods across Transnistria.
Specific objective 2	Full implementation of the Integrated Border Management at the Moldova-Ukraine border with a special attention to its Transnistrian segment.	
Output 2.1	Joint control at border crossing points and automated exchange of border crossing data established.	
Activities	2.1.1	Ensure the implementation plan of the partner services to establish jointly operated border crossing points along the entire Moldovan-Ukrainian border.
	2.1.2	Confirm the full implementation of the automated exchange of border crossing data on persons and vehicles crossing the Moldovan-Ukrainian border including the Transnistrian segment.

Output 2.2	Efficiency of border and customs controls increased through inter-agency co-operation at the regional and local levels.	
Activities	2.2.1	Ensure on the full implementation of One-Stop-Shop (OSS) concept including on the implementation of data sharing mechanisms at Border Crossing Points for clearance purposes.
	2.2.2	Draft assessment and proposal regarding intelligence led border management on Moldova-Ukraine border segment. Support inter-agency mobile groups based on intelligence-led activities in close co-operation with Frontex.
Output 2.3	Cross-border processes aligned with the Association Agreements, VLAPs and Integrated Border Management provisions.	
Activities	2.3.1	Evaluate border and customs systems at all road, rail, air and sea Border Crossing Points and Customs Posts within EUBAM's area of operations jointly with partner services.
	2.3.2	Monitor the implementation of the EU Visa post-Liberalisation Action Plans benchmarks in both Moldova and Ukraine in the following areas: border management, migration management, combatting cross-border organised crime and freedom of movement of citizens of both countries, upon the request of the EU and/or partner services.
	2.3.3	Review all Border Crossing Points along the Moldova-Ukraine border with a view to optimizing their status.
	2.3.4	Support the finalisation of the border demarcation process on the Moldova-Ukraine border. Upon request of the partner services, advise on the technical aspects outstanding for the full demarcation of the common border.
Specific objective 3	Greater effectiveness of efforts to combat cross-border crime on the Moldova-Ukraine border, especially at the Transnistrian segment.	
Output 3.1	The transparency in fighting cross border crime of the common border and adjacent ports of entry in fighting cross-border crime increased.	
Activities	3.1.1	Assist in the prevention, detection and investigation of cross-border crime.
	3.1.2	Develop the assessment, prevention, detection and investigation capabilities of partner services on the illegal trafficking of arms, ammunition, radiological and nuclear materials.
Output 3.2	Joint assessment of threats to border security jointly assessed by the border services and other law enforcement agencies in Moldova and Ukraine developed.	
Activities	3.2.1	Develop updated assessment of risk analysis, intelligence and data-flow management of the partner services on the concerned border segments, and ensure implementation of assessment.
	3.2.2	Develop and ensure implementation of the partner services' joint risk and threat assessments on cross-border crime.
	3.2.3	Ensure a sustainable alert mechanism at tactical and operational levels for prompt response border-related crime threats.
Output 3.3	Increased operational co-operation between Ukraine and Moldova in preventing smuggling of goods, including in tobacco products, arms, ammunition and nuclear materials.	
Activities	3.3.1	Develop updated assessment of information exchange between Moldova and Ukraine on preventing and combating smuggling of goods, including in tobacco products, arms and ammunition, explosives and nuclear materials.
	3.3.2	Ensure the planning, conduct and evaluation of joint border control operations with the partner services and in co-operation with Frontex, European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) and South European Law Enforcement Centre (SELEC).
	3.3.3	Ensure the implementation of border and customs control measures in Moldova and Ukraine with particular attention to the Transnistrian segment of the common border.
Output 3.4	Better inter-agency coordination in the detection, investigation and enforcement of cross-border crime.	
	3.4.1	Enhance harmonised measures and joint efforts to improve enforcement procedures to prevent and combat cross-border crime.



International Organisation for Migration
is the implementing partner



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